



# MDOC Revamps Prison Health Care Plan



The Michigan Department of Corrections is taking a bold look at prison health care reform by implementing a plan that is the first of its kind in the nation. With the expiration of our current health care contract on the horizon, the department has developed a managed care health services Request for Proposal (RFP) that incorporates health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and mirrors the best features of the state Medicaid plan. This was done in collaboration with several other state agencies: the departments of Management and Budget (DMB), Community Health (DCH) and Information Technology (DIT). We are striving to provide the best care for prisoners in the most cost-effective manner.

Costs of specialty care and inpatient hospitalization rose by 26% in fiscal year 2006 and are projected to rise by 30% in fiscal year 2007 under the current contract for those services. This has been the main reason we've needed supplemental appropriations by the Legislature to meet our costs in the past two budget years. Efforts to reduce costs in other ways have been overwhelmed by cost increases related

-see **PRISON HEALTH CARE**, page 4

## Closure Update: RGC's 7 Block Shut Down

The MDOC has completed a portion of the plans to close the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility (JMF) and 7 Block of the Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center (RGC), as 7 Block was shut down over the weekend.

The full closure of JMF is unlikely to be done before September 1 because the Department's transfer plan is still under review by the District Court. The Hadix case has been re-assigned to Judge Robert Jonkers in Grand Rapids.

The JMF prisoner population has decreased by about 690 inmates since the closing announcement in February. This has been through administrative transfers for special needs prisoners, lateral transfers of non-special needs prisoners and paroles and discharges.

On July 18, Judge Bell dissolved the temporary restraining order that had prevented the transfers of special needs prisoners since July 5. In addition:

1. JMF's 4 Block is closed.

2. JMF's school programs and the prisoner store will operate until the facility closes.

3. Michigan State Industries (MSI) will remain at JMF until 5 and 6 Block close.

4. Temporary air conditioning sufficient to keep the open housing units at a less than 90 heat index (HI) was installed for 5 and 6 blocks. It will run on days when the HI (as measured in the cell blocks) approaches 90, to keep the HI below that level.

5. RGC received a "Cool Dome." It is a point of court-ordered refuge for certain prisoners when the interior of the remaining cell blocks - 1, 2, and 3 - approach an HI of 90.

Keep checking the **F.Y.I.** for additional updates on the progress of closing Southern Michigan Correctional Facility.

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# The Brand New Face of FOA

Our Field Operations Administration (FOA) is getting a facelift, beginning with the pay period that starts July 29. Job vacancies will delay some changes, but the expectation is that all will be complete by October 1.

Regions I, II and III will be replaced by the Metropolitan and Outstate regions. Regional Administrator Dinah Y. Moore and Deputy Regional Administrators Michael Alexander and Adrian Green will lead the Metropolitan region. It will include Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. The region office will remain at the Cadillac Place in Detroit. ARU investigators assigned to Macomb and Oakland counties will report to the Metropolitan region. Regional Administrator Michael Glynn and Deputy Regional Administrators Todd Boyd and Gary Stockman will lead the Outstate region, which includes the remaining 79 counties. The region office will be in Lansing, and the Absconder Recovery Unit (ARU) will be headquartered in Lansing as well.

The Office of Parole and Probation Services in Central Office will be led by Administrator Darlene Schimmel. It will include Community Residential Programs (CRP) and Program Services. CRP will oversee the Lake County Technical Rule Violator

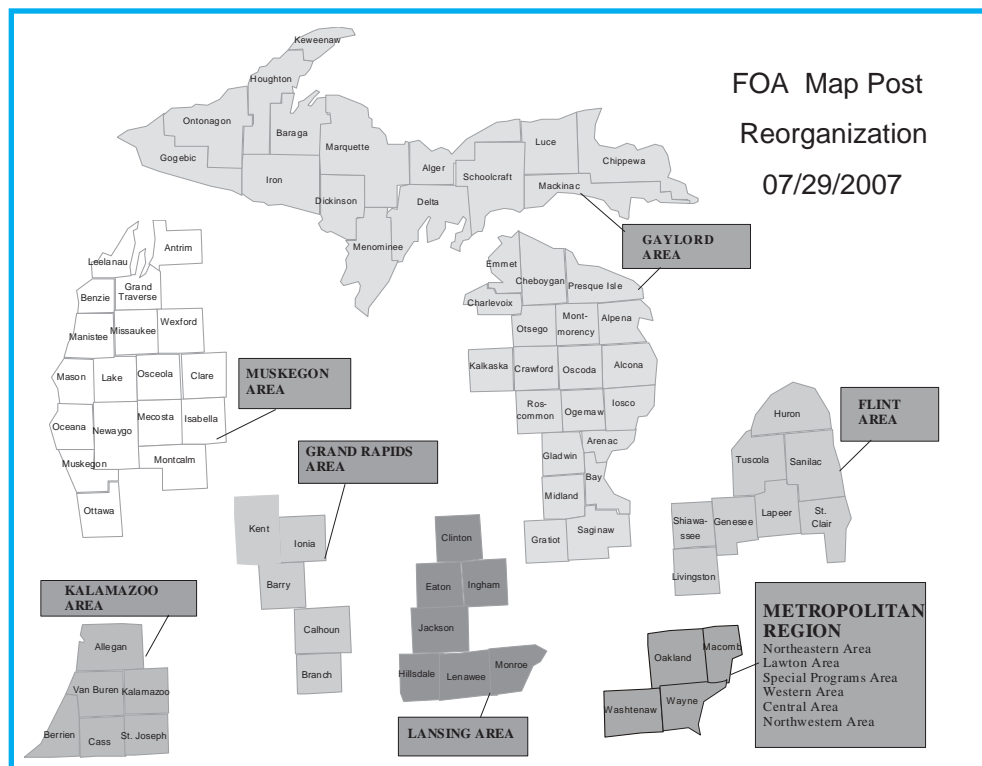
Center and the Grand Rapids Corrections Center. Program Services will oversee the rollout of MPRI, the Tuscola Residential ReEntry Program, and serve as staff liaison to the Training Division.

The Michigan Parole Board, appointed by Director Caruso, is unaffected by the reorganization and continues to be chaired by Barbara Sampson. The Office of the Parole Board in Central Office will be led by the Parole Board Administrator; this position is being vacated by Michael Glynn. The Office will include the Lifer, Litigation and Violation Unit, Parole Release Unit, Parole Processing Unit, Victim Services Unit, and the Interstate Compact Unit.

The MDOC Training Division will assume supervision of FOA's training staff. HRDs will remain deployed in the field.

Our Automated Data Systems Section (ADDS) will assume supervision of FOA's OMNI Support staff. Staff will remain deployed in the field.

Your assistance, experience, and patience are all welcome and appreciated as the administration is reorganized.



## Forum: Corrections, Please

*The following piece appeared in the Washington Times and is reprinted here by permission from James Gondles, executive director of the American Correctional Association:*

Corrections professionals rely on journalists to credibly and accurately inform the public about their field. They are often disappointed and frustrated by inaccurate depictions of corrections by the news media. A disturbing example is the continued use of the word “guard” to refer to custodial or security personnel.

More than 20 years ago, the American Correctional Association (ACA) decided to eliminate the word “guard” and other offensive and outdated terms from its publications, advertisements, announcements, communications and exhibits. The ACA condemns use of the word because it implies the job is inherently passive and demands nothing more than watching locked-up inmates. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The media should accept and use the terms “correctional officer” or “corrections officer” when referring to personnel performing security functions in correctional settings. These terms embody the diverse skills officers employ each day -- communication skills, cultural awareness, first aid, suicide prevention, emergency response preparedness, program and service delivery and the proper use of force.

The correctional officers’ role is to ensure that offenders complete their sentences in a way that sufficiently addresses the wide range of problems they often bring with them, while maintaining corrections’ paramount duty -- public safety. While custody and control is a major aspect of their role, correctional officers’ duties also include support of habilitative or rehabilitative programs that require advanced or specialized training.

The news media have cast themselves in the role of keepers of the truth and exposers of wrongdoing. Responsible journalists should show their professionalism by respecting corrections officers. Further, if the media would learn about corrections, they too would understand the term “guard” does not apply.

It is unjustified to embrace the rationale, as some journalists have suggested, that “guard” can be used interchangeably with “correctional officer” because it is more familiar to the public or has fewer letters. The word no longer fits. Times have changed, the practice of corrections has changed, and the media should move on from using terminology that has been out of place for decades.

**JAMES A. GONDLES JR.**

Executive Director

American Correctional Association

## How Do You Spend Your Spare Time?

Corrections.com is planning to showcase the interesting things corrections professionals do in their off time. They are looking for a variety of stories from a variety of facilities. The stories don’t have to be from C/Os only. Anyone in the field - administrators, secretaries, cooks, accountants, etc. – can submit a story.

Interested? Just contact them via email ([editor@corrections.com](mailto:editor@corrections.com)) and tell them your story. Accompanying photos are encouraged as well.

## Prison Health Care, *continued from page 1*

to health services through the existing contract. Our new contract is markedly different from the current one. Key changes include:

- Requiring MDOC health service contractors be licensed managed care plans with a Certificate of Authority to operate in Michigan. Correctional health services contractors do not typically operate as licensed managed care plans and are not required to meet the same level of performance standards;
- Changing from one statewide contract to seven regional contracts, similar to the state's Medicaid contracts. HMOs will be able to bid on one or more region, but each must be operated as a separate entity;
- An independent third party review contract to assess the cost and health quality between the seven health contract regions;
- Holding providers "at-risk" or accountable for costs and quality, including a penalty for failure to meet rigorous performance criteria;
- Requiring the use of telemedicine, which will expand the pool of specialists and reduce the cost of consults, improving the timeliness and quality of specialty care and reducing transportation costs.

In addition, the structure of our Bureau of Health Care Services will be redesigned in an effort to improve cost savings and quality. Changes in this area will include:

- revising the executive management leadership structure and the nursing and medical support personnel plans;
- redesigning the operations of Duane Waters Medical Center and our plan for the use of sub-acute beds. This could be beneficial for inmates who no longer need acute care, but are not yet well enough to return to a correctional facility;
- implementing new reporting requirements to include both quarterly system-wide and facility reports;

- improving communication on health care costs and quality issues both internally and to the public.

We recognize mental health care is also important, and look to have a recommendation for those services ready by the end of September. Mental health care will eventually be integrated into the overall plan.

While MDOC anticipates significant savings with the new plan, the amount cannot be forecast until the RFP process is complete and DMB awards the contracts. We will then be better able to predict the cost for next year and estimate our savings.

### DeWitt Earns Citizenship Award



*DeWitt (c.), Region II Regional Prison Administrator Ray Wolfe (l.) and Warden Blaine Lafler (r.).*

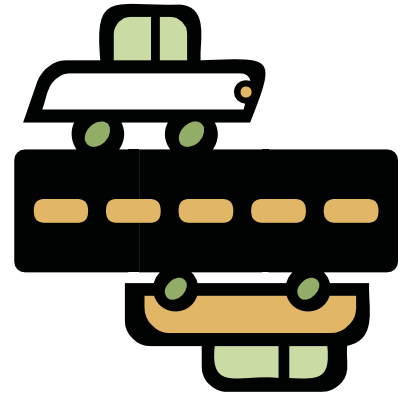
St. Louis Correctional Facility (SLF) C/O Kirk DeWitt received the Department's Citizenship Award for his continued involvement in his community. He coaches various teams and has organized and run community little league and pony league baseball programs for children. He has assisted in school sports by participating in booster activities, including providing labor and transportation and coordinating fundraising. DeWitt has volunteered for several years in a bowling activity with mentally challenged youth and provided numerous services to adults, including establishing self-defense courses for women and local law enforcement agencies. DeWitt's peers describe him as "a beacon of honesty and integrity as well as having an unwavering and steadfast commitment to his family and those in his community."



## Marking Down the Miles

The Department of Management and Budget has outlined a process to standardize mileage claims on travel expense vouchers for city-to-city and point-to-point mileage calculation. Standardized Travel Regulations Section 5.3 - Transportation by Private Vehicle indicates, *"In-state mileage must be shown from point to point and will be allowed on the basis of the current Department of Transportation map of Michigan or by an industry mileage calculator."* Consequently:

1. Travelers need to utilize the MDOT map corner Mileage Table provided by MDOT.
2. If communities are not listed in the corner table, travelers need to utilize the new MDOT "City to City Distance/Time Calculator" on the MDOT web site. The calculator can be located at <http://mdotwas1.mdot.state.mi.us/public/distcalc/Distance.cfm>. This is the acceptable industry mileage calculator for city-to-city and point-to-point mileage in order to maintain consistent mileage reimbursements.
3. When filling out the paperwork, remember that vicinity mileage must be listed on a separate line.



If the above link does not work, you can find the calculator under "Roads & Travel" at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot). Contact June Cronk at (517) 373-1228 or [Cronkje@michigan.gov](mailto:Cronkje@michigan.gov) with any questions.



Many will take advantage of the free flu vaccinations available to state employees this year, but many won't. Some decline for reasons listed below, but are they valid? Take a look:

**"The shot can give you the flu."**

FALSE: Flu vaccines are made from killed influenza viruses. These cannot give you the flu. Other viruses, including other strains of the flu virus, circulate during the flu season. They can and do cause people to get sick.

**"The vaccine isn't 100% effective, so I'm better off getting the flu."**

FALSE: It is true that the vaccine isn't 100% effective. However, if you get a flu shot but still get the flu you are likely to be far less sick than you would have been

without the protection. Also, your chances of severe complications and death will be greatly reduced.

**"The side effects are worse than the flu."**

FALSE: The side effect you're most likely to get is a sore arm. The risk of injury or death from a rare allergic reaction is far less than the risk of severe complications from influenza.

**"Not everyone can take the shot."**

TRUE: People who are allergic to eggs (used in making the vaccine), currently have a severe, acute illness or have had a severe reaction to the flu vaccine in the past might not be able to get a flu shot.

**"Only the very old and sick need the flu shot."**

FALSE: Almost everyone can benefit from the flu shot. Complications from the flu kill thousands of Americans every year. Getting a flu shot will decrease the likelihood that you will catch the flu. As a result, you lower the chances that you will pass it on to your co-workers or take it home to your family and friends.

*-Information provided courtesy of Visiting Nurse Services of Michigan*

## MDOC to Get Hall of Fame Inductee



This fall Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility (IBC) ARUS Larry Avery will be inducted into the Anne Arundel County, Maryland Sports Hall of Fame for his athletic accomplishments.

Avery grew up in Baltimore. Throughout his high school years he participated in football, where he was voted All Conference. He was also the state champion in wrestling and remained undefeated through four seasons.

He attended college at Michigan State University, where he was Big Ten Wrestling Champion and U.S. Wrestling Federation National Champion in 1975. Avery was chosen as the alternate for the 1976 Olympic Wrestling Team headed to Montreal, Canada. In 1977, he was the Eastern AAU Wrestling Qualifier, which allowed him to participate in the annual East Block International Tournament in Toblisesi (a city in the former Soviet Union). There he won a silver medal. Congratulations!

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## Meet Our Newest ‘Employee’!

July 12th was a very special and memorable day for 11-year-old Cody Hunt, son of Carson City (DRF) C/O Deon Hunt. Staff at Boyer Road (OTF) and Carson City correctional facilities held a cookout to raise money for Cody, who has Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP). Cody is shown here with his father during his visit.

FOP is an extremely rare disease of the connective tissue. A mutation of the body's repair mechanism causes fibrous tissue (including muscle, tendon, and ligament) to be ossified when damaged. In many cases, injuries can cause joints to become permanently frozen in place. The growths cannot be removed with surgery because such removal causes the body to “repair” the area of surgery with more bone.

Cody's dream is to be a Corrections Officer like his dad, therefore he was designated as an Honorary Corrections Officer for the day. Warden Thomas Bell presented Cody with an “official” corrections officer certificate.

Cody also received other honorary gifts from his dad's shift supervisors as well as Michigan Corrections Organization (MCO) representatives. When the day was done, over \$2,500 was given to Cody and his family from the fundraising activities.



## LETR Fund Raisers Continue

Special Olympics of Michigan (SOMI) continues to benefit from the activities of the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR), held throughout the state:

The Charles E. Egeler Reception and Guidance Center hosted a fundraising cookout and Motorcycle/Car Show (below, right). Staff attending the cookout cast votes for their favorite motorcycle, classic vehicle, and late model vehicle. Winners of the People's Choice Awards were Tandem Hayes (RGC) and Tim Creery (JMF), who tied for best Classic car; Gloria Valdez (RGC) for best late model car, and Lisa Asbury (DWH) for best motorcycle. The event was organized by Deputy Warden's Secretary Kathy Pittelkow and raised \$2,074.

Muskegon (MCF), Earnest C. Brooks (LRF) and West Shoreline (MTF) correctional facilities collected a total of \$3,600 for LETR Special Olympics during their annual golf outing. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners are listed below:

1st place (-12): Karen Tucker, Joe Buckingham, Craig Porter, Egan Porter;  
2nd place (-10): Don Ackerman, Tony Ortiz, Bernie Stiller, James Davis;  
3rd place (-9): Roy Couke, Joe Ribesky, Chris Wilksis, John Ribesky.



## Minority Advisory Panel (MAP) Golf Outing



(above): Nanette Norwood (ICF), MAP President; Director Patricia L. Caruso; Eddie Cargor (HVC), MAP Vice President

(below): Sean Lockhart (COF), Shaneer Trice (Verizon), Jimmy Jarret (JMF), Donnie Busdeker (AVI Foods)



## Alex Benn Benefit Golf Outing

The Alex Benn Benefit Golf Outing is August 17 at Hankerd Hills Golf Course in Pleasant Lake. It costs \$240 per four-person team and includes green fees, cart, food, water/soda and chips. There will also be an auction, a 50/50 drawing and more.

Alex Benn is the son of Cooper Street Correctional Facility A/CPT Adam Benn. He was in a tragic accident in June, and money raised from the outing will go toward his medical expenses. To sign up, please contact Debbie Cook at 517-780-6829 or Tracy Crawford at 517-780-5144. Payment must be received by **August 9**. Make checks payable to the Alex Benn Benefit Fund.

### Correction:

The 5th annual Ric Goward Memorial Golf Outing is August 17 at the North Star Golf Course, not the North Coast Golf Course as indicated in the last F.Y.I.

**F.Y.I.** is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications. We welcome your input! Contact us with your story ideas.

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